

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Applicant amends claims 1 and 9-12, and cancels claims 6 and 7. No new matter is added. Support for the amendments is found, *e.g.*, at pages 4 and 7-9 of the specification as filed.

Accordingly, claims 1-5 and 8-12 are all the claims pending in the application. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-5 and 8-12 are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

I. Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-6, 8 and 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,597,370 to Lee (hereinafter "Lee") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,404,422 to Choi (hereinafter "Choi") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,990,968 to Naka et al. (hereinafter "Naka").

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 7 and 9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. *See* page 7 of the Office Action.

To expedite the prosecution of the above-identified application and without commenting on the substantive merits of the Examiner's rejection, by this Amendment, Applicant incorporates the allowable subject matter of claim 7 together with slightly modified features of claim 6 into independent claims 1 and 10-12. These amendments should place the application in condition for immediate allowance.

The features of original claim 6 have been modified to recite “a predetermined number of consecutive pixels of a line of a test image,” instead of a predetermined number of consecutive pixels located in a front area of a line of the test image, as recited in original claim 6.

Support for the modification of the features of original claim 6 is found, *e.g.*, in paragraph [010] at page 4, first sentence of the specification as filed. Applicant respectfully submits that checking the first pixels of the line of the test image is merely one particularly advantageous embodiment of the invention. *See* paragraph [010] of the specification. Therefore, such a modification does not impair the allowability of amended independent claims 1 and 10-12.

Claims 2-5 and 8-9 depend from claim 1 and are patentable at least by virtue of their dependencies.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

/ George F. Lehnigk /

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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George F. Lehnigk
Registration No. 36,359